

REMARKS

The amendment to claim 31 is for the purpose of clarifying what Applicants regard as the invention. The amendments to claims 32-41, 43, and 44 are to bring these claims into conformity with the language of their base claim(s). No new matter has been added.

I. CLAIM REJECTIONS UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102/103

Claims 31-33, 35, and 37-44 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,354,295 issued to Guglielmi et al. (Guglielmi). Claim 42 has been canceled, rendering the rejection with respect to this claim moot. For the remaining claims, Applicant respectfully notes that in order to sustain a rejection under §102, each element in the rejected claim must be found, either expressly or inherently, in the cited reference.

Claim 31 recites a vaso-occlusive device, and a retainer assembly configured to retain the vaso-occlusive device within an aneurysm. Guglielmi does not disclose or suggest such retainer assembly. Rather, Guglielmi discloses a vaso-occlusive device (coil 56) deliverable to within an aneurysm 64 (Figures 4 and 5). Once delivered within the aneurysm, the coil 56 assumes a random shape to substantially fill up the aneurysm. There is nothing in Guglielmi that discloses or suggests a retainer assembly that retains the coil 56 after being delivered within the aneurysm. For at least the foregoing reason, claim 31 is believed allowable over Guglielmi. For at least the reasons that claim 31 is allowable over Guglielmi, the remaining claims 32-41 and 43-45, which depend from claim 31, should also be allowable over the cited references.


CONCLUSION

Based on the foregoing, all claims are believed allowable and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions or comments regarding this amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

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